

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 1, 2012  
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 29, 2012  
CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2011–12 REGULAR SESSION

## ASSEMBLY BILL

**No. 2186**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Grove**

February 23, 2012

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An act to add Chapter 1.4 (commencing with Section 1945) to Division 2.5 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, and to repeal Chapter 1614 of the Statutes of 1984, relating to the Youth Emergency Telephone Referral Project.

### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2186, as amended, Grove. Youth Emergency Telephone Referral Project.

Existing uncodified law establishes the Youth Emergency Telephone Referral Project, in the Office of Criminal Justice Planning, to be headquartered in Sacramento, as specified. Existing law provides that the Office of Criminal Justice Planning may directly implement the project, or may contract with nonprofit corporations, as specified, for administration of the project.

This bill would recast and codify these ~~unmodified~~ provisions of law establishing the project and stating the intent of the Legislature in that regard. The bill would establish the project in the California Emergency Management Agency, and would provide that the agency may directly implement the project, or may ~~administer competitively awarded grants~~ ~~awarded to contract with California~~ nonprofit corporations to do so, as specified. The bill would delete the provisions requiring the project to be headquartered in Sacramento. *This bill would also clarify that the*

*project's services, as specified, are available to youth who are at risk of running away from home or becoming homeless, or who have run away from home or are homeless.*

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

SECTION 1. Chapter 1.4 (commencing with Section 1945) is added to Division 2.5 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, to read:

CHAPTER 1.4. YOUTH EMERGENCY TELEPHONE REFERRAL  
PROJECT

1945. The Legislature finds and declares that the problem of runaway children is one of major significance, causing great suffering both for parents, who often do not know whether their child is alive, as well as for the runaways themselves, as they often are young, impressionable children, who are frequently the victims of crime, including forced prostitution, drug abuse, and death.

1946. (a) There is, administered by the California Emergency Management Agency, the Youth Emergency Telephone Referral Project. The agency may directly implement the project or may ~~administer grants that shall be awarded pursuant to a request for application process. Grants shall be competitively awarded to nonprofit corporations that can most efficiently and effectively meet the following mandated objectives~~ *contract with any California nonprofit corporation to implement the project. The project shall:*

(1) Provide a statewide 24-hour youth emergency telephone hotline for ~~homeless or runaway~~ *youth who are at risk of running away from home or becoming homeless, or who have run away from home or are homeless.*

(2) Provide *counseling and referrals* to appropriate services to ~~homeless or runaway~~ *youth who are at risk of running away from home or becoming homeless, or who have run away from home or are homeless* who call the hotline, for shelter, meals, clothing, counseling, and other services necessary for their well-being.

(3) Provide *a free, nonthreatening* 24-hour telephone crisis counseling by trained volunteer or paid staff for ~~homeless or~~

1 ~~runaway~~ youth who are at risk of running away from home or  
2 becoming homeless, or who have run away from home or are  
3 homeless. Counseling provided to a caller shall be confidential,  
4 unless it is determined that the health and safety of the caller is at  
5 risk and that contact with local law enforcement or medical  
6 services is necessary.

7 (4) Serve as a message center for ~~homeless or runaway~~ youth  
8 who are at risk of running away from home or becoming homeless,  
9 or who have run away from home or are homeless who wish to  
10 communicate with their parents or guardians.

11 (b) The agency shall supervise the ~~grant recipients~~ contracted  
12 California nonprofit corporations, as needed, to ensure compliance  
13 with the objectives of this chapter.

14 (c) The agency shall, in conjunction with providers of telephone  
15 service, establish and implement a statewide toll-free telephone  
16 number to carry out the purposes of this chapter. The agency shall  
17 use the provider of telephone services that, in the opinion of the  
18 agency, provides the most efficient services at the lowest cost.

19 (d) The agency shall publicize the existence of the referral  
20 service through the print and electronic media, including, but not  
21 limited to, the use of television and radio public service  
22 announcements, brochures, newspaper announcements, posters,  
23 bumper stickers, and agreements for the provision of publicity,  
24 free of charge, by private entities.

25 (e) The agency shall cooperate with other services of this kind  
26 throughout the United States, or existing local services in  
27 California, with the goal of aiding, rather than preempting, these  
28 services.

29 SEC. 2. Chapter 1614 of the Statutes of 1984 is repealed.